

LESSON 1

In this lesson we learn the following things:

What is this?	مَا هَذَا ؟
This is a book.	هَذَا كِتَابٌ .
Is this a house?	أَهَذَا بَيْتٌ ؟
Yes, this is a house.	نعم ، هَذَا بَيْتٌ .
No, this is a mosque.	لا ، هَذَا مَسْجِدٌ .
Who is this?	مَنْ هَذَا ؟

Note:

1. هَذَا is pronounced هَآذَا, but it is written without the first alif.
2. Arabic has no word corresponding to the English "is", i.e. Arabic has no copula.
3. There is no word in Arabic corresponding to "a" in English as in "this is a book". The n-sound at the end of the Arabic noun (*kitābu-n*, *baitu-n*, *masjidu-n*) is the Arabic indefinite article corresponding to the English "a"/"an". This n-sound is called **tanwīn**.
4. The particle أَ placed at the beginning of a statement turns it into a question, e.g.

This is a house.	هَذَا بَيْتٌ .
Is this a house?	أَهَذَا بَيْتٌ ؟

بَيْتٌ	house	وَلَدٌ	boy
مَسْجِدٌ	mosque	طَالِبٌ	student
بَابٌ	door	رَجُلٌ	man
كِتَابٌ	book	تَاجِرٌ	merchant
قَلَمٌ	pen	كَلْبٌ	dog
مِفْتَاحٌ	key	قِطٌّ	cat
مَكْتَبٌ	writing table	حِمَارٌ	donkey
سَرِيرٌ	bed	حِصَانٌ	horse
كُرْسِيٌّ	chair	جَمَلٌ	camel
نَجْمٌ	star	دِيكٌ	rooster
قَمِيصٌ	shirt	مُدَرِّسٌ	teacher
طَبِيبٌ	doctor	مِنْدِيلٌ	kerchief